

JOURNAL OF THE LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY

Volume 39

1985

Number 1

Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society
39(1), 1985, 1-8

NEW U.S. RECORDS AND OTHER INTERESTING MOTHS FROM TEXAS

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ABSTRACT. Twenty-eight moths, most of which are recorded from the U.S.A. or Texas for the first time, are illustrated. The text includes a brief description and distributional records known to the authors.

This paper reports 28 species of moths collected in Texas by the authors. In most cases, these have not been illustrated previously or have been mentioned only in publications that are now long out of print and difficult to obtain. The species were selected because in some cases they represent new U.S. records and are not included in the new *Check List of the Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico* (Hodges et al., 1983); in other cases, the species were included in the new check list based on the records given here, the specimens having been previously examined by the authors of the check list. Certain species were included because they represent important new range extensions. Finally, some represent species that have not been adequately illustrated previously. The authors hope that this information on striking and easily recognized species will be useful and that perhaps it will encourage others to develop an interest in this field of lepidopterology.

Sphingidae

Xylophanes libya Druce (Fig. 1). Hidalgo Co., Bentsen Rio Grande Valley St. Pk., 11-X-75, 1 male, E. Knudson coll. **New U.S. record.** Det. R. Hodges and V. Brou. This species is common in Mexico and has been collected there by the junior author within 200 miles of the border. The forewings are several shades of olive brown; hindwings are banded with black and dull orange yellow.

Noctuidae

Acrionicta funeralis (G. & R.) (Fig. 2). Washington Co., Brenham, 1-IV-79, 2 males (1 donated to USNM), 1 female, 1 last instar larva on Hickory (*Carya* sp.), producing a male, May 1980; Anderson Co., Engeling Wildlife Management Area, 15-III-83, 2 males, all E. Knudson coll. Det. R. Poole. These are apparently the first Texas records of this species. Forewings light gray marked with black; hindwings white.

Euxoa pimensis B. & McD. (Fig. 3). El Paso Co., Tom Mays Park, 24-V-81, 3 males (1 donated to CNC), 3 females; Culberson Co., Nickel Creek, 26-V-81, 1 male, all E. Knudson coll. Det. Lafontaine. Apparently a new Texas record. Forewing light gray with variable black shading between orbicular and reniform, black basal dash; hindwings pale fuscous.

Eriopyga iole Schaus (Fig. 4). Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Green Gulch, 28-V-81, 1 male, E. Knudson coll. **New U.S. record.** Det. R. Poole. Head, thorax and forewings reddish brown; ordinary lines obscure, dark brown; reniform outlined with white; hindwings pale fuscous, fringe orange-brown.

Oncocnemis rosea Smith (Fig. 5). El Paso Co., Tom Mays Park, 30-III-83, 5 males, 6 females (1 pair donated to USNM), E. Knudson coll. Det. R. Poole. Apparently, first Texas record for this species, which, with the preceding *Euxoa pimensis*, is from the infrequently collected Franklin Mountains near El Paso. Forewings pinkish, shading to ochreous near base; strong black antemedial line; hindwings fuscous, lighter toward base.

Oncocnemis terminalis Smith (Fig. 6). Hemphill Co., Lake Marvin, 9-X-82, 1 male, E. Knudson coll. Det. R. Poole. Probable new Texas record. Forewings dark brown with blackish markings; hindwings white, with broad black terminal band, fringe white.

Miracavira brillians Barnes (Fig. 7). Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Green Gulch, 27-VI-65, 2 males; Chisos Basin, 25-VIII-65, 5 males, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll.; Chisos Basin, 10-VIII-83, 2 males, E. Knudson coll. Det. J. G. Franclemont. Forewing white and different shades of foliage-green, with darker pattern of deep brownish black; reddish brown tornal spot; hindwings white.

Letis xyli (Guenée) (Fig. 8). Calhoun Co., Port Alto, 16-X-60, 1 male; Kleberg Co., Padre Island Nat'l. Seashore, 19-VII-76, 1 female, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll. **New U.S. record.** Det. E. Todd. The illustrated female is definitely paler than the male. Color is brown varying in saturation from very light to very dark.

Cropia ruthaea Dyar (Fig. 9). Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Green Gulch, 28-V-81, 1 male, E. Knudson coll. **New U.S. record.** Det. R. Poole. Forewings dark brown with black antemedial and postmedial lines; subterminal line, orbicular, and reniform contrasting light brown; hindwings light brown, paler toward base. Similar to *Cropia connecta* Smith, which also occurs in western Texas. *Connecta* is larger; has a contrastingly dark shaded inner margin of forewing; orbicular and reniform concolorous with ground; subterminal line indistinct; hindwing darker.

Hemispragueia idella Barnes (Fig. 10). Presidio Co., Ruidosa Hot Spring, 8-VII-69, 1 male, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll. Forewings ivory-white with black markings; hindwing bright yellow.

Lesmone fufius (Schaus) (Fig. 11). Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana Refuge, 13-IX-80, 3 males; Bentsen Rio Grande Valley St. Pk., 27-V-82, 1 female. Det. R. Poole. Forewings grayish brown with blackish orbicular, reniform, and costal wedge near apex; hindwings concolorous. Sexes similar.

Lesmone formularis (Geyer) (Fig. 12). Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana Refuge, 28-XI-75, 1 female, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll.; Kleberg Co., Kingsville, 1-XI-75, 1 female, Shu Wong coll. (submitted by J. Gillaspay). Wings grayish brown varying in saturation from medium to dark; straight line from inner angle to apex in hindwing is orange, bordered internally by blackish. Sexually dimorphic. Males collected by junior author in Mexico have a strong



Brenham, 1-IV-79, wing expanse 34.1 mm. **3**, *Euxoa pimensis* B. & McD., El Paso Co., Tom Mays Park, 24-V-81, wing expanse 41.2 mm. **4**, *Eriopyga iole* Schaus, Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Green Gulch, 28-V-81, wing expanse 28.3 mm. **5**, *Oncocnemis rosea* Smith, El Paso Co., Tom Mays Park, 30-III-83, wing expanse 28.8 mm. **6**, *Oncocnemis terminalis* Smith, Hemphill Co., Lake Marvin, 9-X-82, wing expanse 35 mm. **7**, *Miracavira brillians* Barnes, Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Chisos Basin, 27-VI-65, wing expanse 35.8 mm. (Figures not at same scale. Full wing expanse given for each specimen.)

blackish diagonal line from near base to apex in forewings; the diagonal line of the hindwings is blackish, without any orange shading.

Eulepidotis addens (Walker) (Fig. 13). Hidalgo Co., Bentsen Rio Grande Valley St. Pk., 11-X-80, 1 female, E. Knudson coll.; Cameron Co., Brownsville, 9-XI-69, 1 male, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll. **New U.S. record.** Det. J. G. Franclemont and R. Poole. Forewings with dull yellow ground over basal $\frac{2}{3}$, interrupted by dark violet-brown semimetallic bars; apical $\frac{1}{2}$ dull violet-brown; hindwings brownish with blue "eyespot" near tornus. Male less colorful, with the yellow ground of forewing replaced by medium violet-brown.

Goniocarsia electrica Schaus (Fig. 14). Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Green Gulch, 7-X-66, 1 female, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll. Det. E. Todd with the remark "extremely variable" (pers. comm.). Medium brown with violaceous tinge; postmedial line whitish.

Notodontidae

Nystalea collaris (Schaus) (Fig. 15). Cameron Co., Brownsville, 8-XI-69, 1 female; 17-XI-69, 1 female, ex pupa, found on Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.), A. & M. E. Blanchard coll. Same locality, 3 larvae, 2 pupae collected on Guava by R. O. Kendall, producing the following adults: 24-XI-69, 3 females; 23-XII-69, 1 female. 1 larva preserved. Det. E. Todd and also recorded from Texas by him as follows: Brownsville, Oct. 1953, J. M. McGough coll.; Mercedes, July 1957, P. T. Riherd coll. Ground color light gray; postmedial line bordered inwardly with orange, outwardly with blackish triangular spots; pattern otherwise black.

Geometridae

Scopula eburneata Guenée (Fig. 17). All from North Padre Island, either Kleberg or Nueces Co., 17-V-76, 2 females; 24-VI-76, 1 male; 19-VII-76, 1 male; 19-VI-77, 1 male; 21-VI-77, 1 female; 6-IV-78, 2 females; 8-11-VI-78, 1 male, 3 females, all A. & M. E. Blanchard coll.; 1-X-77, 2 males, E. Knudson coll. Det. D. S. Fletcher (BM). Ground color creamy white with blackish markings.

Pyralidae

Araschnopsis subulalis (Guenée) (Fig. 18). Hidalgo Co., Bentsen Rio Grande Valley St. Pk., 20-X-74, 1 female, E. Knudson coll.; Santa Ana Refuge, 28-XI-75, 1 female, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll. **New U.S. record.** Det. E. G. Munroe and D. C. Ferguson. Creamy white reticulated with medium brown; brown patches on outer margins of both wings.

Lamprosema baracoalis Schaus (Fig. 19). Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana Refuge, 5-III-73, 1 female; 28-XI-75, 1 female, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll.; same locality, 20-X-74, 1 female, E. Knudson coll. Det. D. C. Ferguson. Chocolate-brown with hyaline spots on forewing (basal area in figure partially denuded of scales by wear); hindwing with narrow white antemedial line, bordered inwardly with black.

Bocchoropsis pharaxalis Druce (Fig. 20). Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana Refuge, 25-XI-73, 1 female, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll. **New U.S. record.** Det. D. C. Ferguson. Shiny yellowish white marked with light brown.

Stemorrhages costata (Fab.) (Fig. 21). Harris Co., Bellaire, 15-IX-80, 1 male; 25-IX-83, 1 male; Kerr Co., Hunt, 23-VIII-81, 1 female, E. Knudson coll.; Dallas Co., Garland, 14-IX-83, 1 female, H. A. Freeman coll. Det. D. C. Ferguson. This species is also reported

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FIGS. 8-14. 8, *Letis xyliia* (Guenée), Padre Island Nat'l. Seashore, 19-VII-76, wing expanse 82 mm. 9, *Cropia ruthaea* Dyar, Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Green



Gulch, 28-V-81, wing expanse 35.9 mm. **10**, *Hemispragueia idella* Barnes, Presidio Co., Ruidosa Hot Springs, 8-VII-69, wing expanse 23.5 mm. **11**, *Lesmone fufius* (Schaus), Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana Refuge, 13-IX-80, wing expanse 26.2 mm. **12**, *Lesmone formularis* (Geyer), Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana Refuge, 28-XI-75, wing expanse 30.8 mm. **13**, *Eulepidotis addens* (Walker), Hidalgo Co., Bentsen Rio Grande Valley St. Pk., 11-X-80, wing expanse 26.8 mm. **14**, *Gonocarsia electrica* Schaus, Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Green Gulch, 7-X-66, wing expanse 40.5 mm. (Figures not at same scale. Full wing expanse given for each specimen.)

from Louisiana for the first time by V. A. Brou as follows: West Feliciana Par., Weyanoke, 30-IX-79, 1 female; St. John Par., Edgard, 12-V-82, 1 male; 6-IX-82, 1 female, V. A. Brou coll. Glossy white with yellow-brown costa and small black discal spot on forewing; male with prominent black anal tuft.

Daulia arizonensis Munroe (Fig. 22). Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Chihuahuan desert near Nugent Mt., 21-IX-71, 2 males; Gov't. Spring, 29-IX-65, 1 female; 11-X-69, 1 male, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll. Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Gov't. Spring, 28-IX-81, 1 male; K-Bar Research Station, 28-III-83, 1 male; Study Butte, 4-XI-81, 2 males, 1 female; El Paso Co., Tom Mays Park, 24-V-81, 1 male, 1 female, E. Knudson coll. Det. E. G. Munroe. Forewing golden yellow with silvery markings, margined with black scales; hindwing whitish.

Microthyris prolongalis Guenée (Fig. 23). Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana Refuge, 28-XI-75, 1 male, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll. Det. D. C. Ferguson. Medium brown with obscure hyaline spots on forewing; hindwing with dark brown antemedial line.

Salobrena sincera (Zeller) (Fig. 24). A common and widely distributed species in southwestern Texas, from San Antonio south to Brownsville and west to the trans-Pecos region. Varying shades of brown tinted with reddish orange; forewing of male with huge funnel-shaped costal process; female with much smaller costal process. This common Texas species is included to illustrate the peculiar wing shape of the male.

Hemiplatytes parallela (Kft.) (Fig. 25). Randall Co., Palo Duro Canyon, 11-IX-66, 1 male, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll.; same locality, 9-V-81, 2 females; Brewster Co., Alpine, 5-V-78, 1 male, E. Knudson coll. Det. D. C. Ferguson. Forewing light yellowish brown with broad, continuous silvery streak from base to apex, and narrow silvery streak on fold; hindwing white.

Diviana eudoreella Ragonot (Fig. 26). Kimble Co., Junction, 16-IV-74, 1 male, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll.; Jeff Davis Co., Davis Mountains St. Pk., 28-V-79, 1 female; Mt. Locke, 8-VIII-83, 1 female; Kerr Co., Hunt, 4-X-80, 1 male (donated to USNM), 1 female; 25-VII-81, 1 male; 6-IX-81, 1 male, all E. Knudson coll. Det. D. C. Ferguson. Forewing light gray with blackish gray markings; hindwing pale fuscous.

Sosipatra nonparilella Dyar (Fig. 27). Jeff Davis Co., Ft. Davis, 13-X-66, 1 female; Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Chihuahuan desert near Nugent Mt., 1-V-72, 1 male, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll. Forewings whitish gray, evenly speckled with black scales; lines white, nearly straight, bordered with black; hindwing pale fuscous. This rare species is similar in appearance to several other phycitines, but may be separated by genitalic characters.

Tortricidae

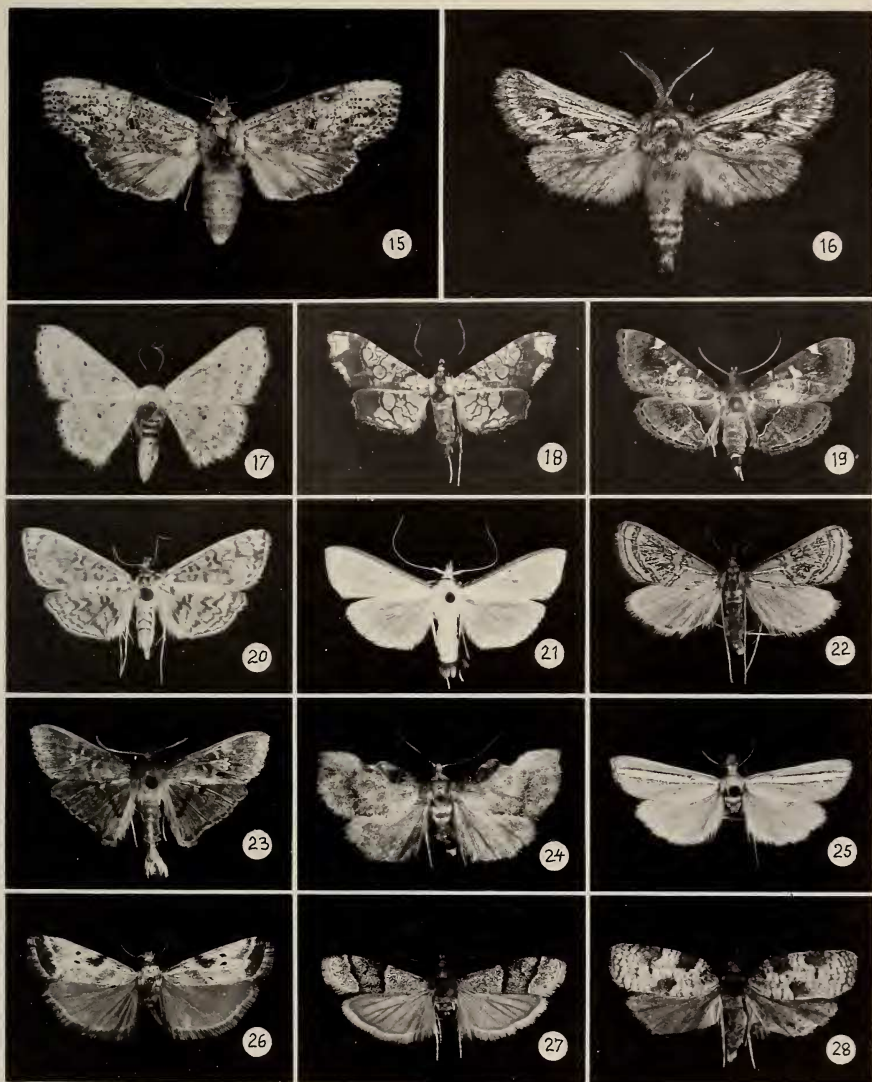
Sparganothis cana Rob. (Fig. 28). Walker Co., Huntsville St. Pk., 20-V-69, 5 males, 1 female, A. & M. E. Blanchard coll. Det. J. Powell. Forewings light gray, reticulated with black; the two costal and one dorsal patches are medium gray; hindwing fuscous.

Cossidae

Hypopta palmata B. & McD. (Fig. 16). Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Green Gulch, 29-IX-81, 1 male; Dugout Wells, 9-VIII-83, 1 male, E. Knudson coll. Forewing

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FIGS. 15-28. **15**, *Nystalea collaris* (Schaus), Cameron Co., Brownsville, 8-XI-69, wing expanse 51 mm. **16**, *Hypopta palmata* B. & McD., Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Green Gulch, 29-IX-81, wing expanse 30 mm. **17**, *Scopula eburneata* Guenée, North Padre Island, 19-VI-77, wing expanse 13 mm. **18**, *Araschnopsis subulalis* (Guenée), Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana Refuge, 28-XI-75, wing expanse 20 mm. **19**, *Lamprosema baracoalis* Schaus, Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana Refuge, 28-XI-75, wing expanse 22.3 mm. **20**, *Bocchoropsis pharaxalis* Druce, Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana Refuge, 25-XI-73, wing



expanse 20.3 mm. **21**, *Stemorrhages costata* (Fab.), Harris Co., Bellaire, 15-IX-80, wing expanse 29.6 mm. **22**, *Daulia arizonensis* Munroe, Brewster Co., Big Bend Nat'l. Park, Chihuahuan desert near Nugent Mt., 21-IX-71, wing expanse 29.6 mm. **23**, *Microthyris prolongalis* Guenée, Hidalgo Co., Santa Ana Refuge, 28-XI-75, wing expanse 29.6 mm. **24**, *Salobrena sincera* (Zeller), Cameron Co., Brownsville, 12-IV-66, male, wing expanse 13.6 mm. **25**, *Hemiplatytes parallela* (Kearfott), Randall Co., Palo Duro Canyon, 11-IX-66, wing expanse 25.1 mm. **26**, *Diviana eudoreella* Ragonot, Kimble Co., Junction, 16-IV-74, wing expanse 15.8 mm. **27**, *Sosipatra nonparilella* Dyar, Jeff Davis Co., Ft. Davis, 13-X-66, wing expanse 20.1 mm. **28**, *Sparganothis cana* Robinson, Walker Co., Huntsville St. Pk., 20-V-69, wing expanse 18.7 mm. (Figures not at same scale. Full wing expanse given for each specimen.)

whitish, irrorated with black scales; veins black; dark gray patches on fold and subterminal area; hindwing fuscous.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are extremely grateful for the assistance of Drs. D. C. Ferguson, D. S. Fletcher, J. G. Franclemont, R. W. Hodges, J. D. Lafontaine, E. G. Munroe, R. B. Poole, J. A. Powell, and E. L. Todd for determinations and especially to Drs. Ferguson and Poole for reviewing the manuscript. We are also grateful to R. O. Kendall, V. A. Brou, and Dr. E. L. Todd for providing additional records. We also wish to express thanks to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. and U.S. National Park Service for their assistance.